

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K O F F I C E
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Appl. No. : 10/517,802 Confirmation No.
Applicant : Kevin S. Davies
Filed : December 10, 2004
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :

Docket No. : 04-646
Customer No. : 34704

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's continued duty of disclosure, the documents on the attached Form PTO-1449 are brought to the Examiner's attention. Copies of the non-US patent documents are enclosed. The relevance of the non-English documents is as follows.

JP 2001-071192 relates to a safety system that detects access into a hazardous area by the use of two perpendicular light curtains. Each light curtain comprises a plane of parallel light beams emitted across the opening to the hazardous area. The use of the perpendicular light curtains allows the horizontal and vertical extends of the obstructions passing through the curtain to be detected and saved. While this arrangement allows the detection of both the width and the height of obstructions passing through the light curtain, it does not allow the detection of shape, nor does it allow the calculation of the distance from the obstructions to the moving part. Further, it is also not detecting obstructions in the path of the moving tool, but is providing a safety curtain preventing access to the hazardous area.

The device described in EP1246148 uses a camera on one side

of a protected area and an illuminated reflector on the other side such that the camera receives light from the reflector that has passed through the reflected area. A means is provided to store the image received by the camera when no obstructions are present. The image is not examined to determine where the obstructions within the protected area lie but the image is compared as a whole to the image currently being received by the camera and movement of machinery through the protected area is stopped if the images differ by more than a predefined amount."

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Commissioner determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to the Deposit Account of record.

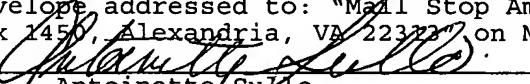
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 7, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 7, 2005


Antoinette Sullo

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	10/517,802
		Filing Date	December 10, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Kevin S. Davies
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	04-646
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.